

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A method for transmitting pre-recorded images using telecom networks, whereby when telecommunications apparatus is used by a caller to send a message to a recipient, a supplementary image is visually transmitted from messaging equipment to the caller in addition to, or to replace, conventional connection messages.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein if, during transmission of the supplementary image to the caller, the telecommunications apparatus establishes a connection with the recipient, then the display of the supplementary image is terminated.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the supplementary image is transmitted to accompany a message text relayed to the caller so that if the telecom apparatus is not answered by the recipient during a predetermined time period, the image which the caller sees is replaced by the conventional message text.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein a message to be transmitted to the recipient from the caller is a mixed media audio/video message and, wherein a supplementary image is presented for viewing to the caller prior to connection between caller and recipient being established or prior to transmission of the message from the caller.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the image has an advertising and/or information content.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein a supplementary image is presented for viewing to the caller prior to connection between caller and recipient being established.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein supplementary images are conveyed only to telecom system users who have indicated a willingness to receive such images.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein supplementary image insertion is available to all network service providers.
9. (Currently amended) ~~A method for transmitting pre-recorded images using a telecommunications network,~~ The method of claim 1, in which a recipient of the transmission sees a pre-recorded supplementary image upon receiving transmission, the image being relayed, prior to connection between caller and recipient being effected or prior to transmission of a message from the caller.
10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein in the case of text messaging, the supplementary image is placed before, after or in the text of the text message to the caller.
11. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the supplementary image seen by the recipient is the same image as that seen by the caller.

12. – 17. (Canceled)

18. (Original) Apparatus for transmitting pre-recorded images using telecom networks, whereby when telecommunications apparatus is used by a caller to send a message to a recipient, a supplementary image is visually transmitted from messaging equipment to the caller in addition to, or to replace, conventional connection messages, wherein the apparatus comprises: means for detecting a signal on a telecom system indicating that there is an incoming message transmission; and means for responding to this detection by conveying a supplementary image or images to the caller.

19. (Currently amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the apparatus is arranged to insert a supplementary image or images into the message and relay the message with inserted supplementary image(s) to a recipient.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein in the case of text messaging the supplementary image(s) is/are inserted in a part of a message from the caller and will be visible to the recipient on retrieval of the text message.

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein a message to be transmitted to the recipient from the caller is a mixed media audio/video message and, wherein a supplementary image is presented for viewing to the caller prior to connection between caller and recipient being established or prior to transmission of the message from the caller.

22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the apparatus comprises cellular/wired telecommunications systems and other terrestrial or satellite transmissions, or email transmission systems capable of receiving text messaging.

23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the telecommunications system is configured so as to convey such supplementary images only to system users who have indicated a willingness to receive such images.

24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the supplementary image also has an audible message associated with it and transmitted to the caller during a predetermined time period.

25. (Original) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the predetermined time period is selected by an advertising organisation.

26. (Currently amended) ~~Apparatus for transmitting pre-recorded images using telecom networks~~ The apparatus of claim 18, wherein a recipient of the transmission sees a pre-recorded supplementary image upon receiving transmission, the image being relayed, prior to connection between caller and recipient being effected or prior to transmission of a message from the caller, the apparatus comprising: means for detecting a signal on a telecom system indicating that there is an incoming message transmission; and means for responding to this detection by inserting a supplementary image or images into the message transmission.

• Appl. No. 09/858,174
Amdt. dated June 6, 2007
Reply to Office action of May 8, 2007

27. – 34 (Canceled)